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FOOD FOR LAMBS;

OR,

A GUIDE TO INFANT TEACHERS AND PARENTS

IN THE RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION OF YOUNG
CHILDREN.

BY L. A. HOLDICH.

WAS NOT OUR LORD A LITTLE CHILD,
TAUGHT BY DEGREES TO PRAY,
BY FATHER DEAR AND MOTHER MILD
INSTRUCTED DAY BY DAY?

CHRISTIAN YEAR.

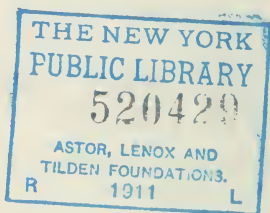
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P R E F A C E.

THESE Lessons, although originally intended for infant classes alone, can yet be employed for larger scholars. The selections from Scripture may be used to advantage at all times, and the additional lessons will give variety to the instructions of inexperienced teachers.

In an infant school, oral instruction must be mainly relied on, and each of these lessons is arranged to be thus taught. Yet, if necessary, they can be committed to memory, and recited to the teachers.

It is of the greatest importance that children should distinctly understand the words they sing, those they utter in prayer, and those contained in the Bible verses which they are taught; otherwise, but little profit is gained, although they may present a very interesting appearance,

while singing sacred words of which they know not the meaning, and repeating prayers which they do not understand.

I confess that I had yet a wider aim in this selection. I thought that it might assist some pious mother in her efforts to enforce heavenly truth. As I wrote, memory recalled Sabbath evening hours, when similar instruction was given by a sainted mother to the mind and heart of her child. Like a picture it rose before me, the quiet room, the folio Bible, the meek and loving face, the gentle voice that spake the words of Jesus to an infant ear. The seed was buried, but not lost. The child lives to rejoice in the Sabbath evening instruction of a Christian mother.

Sunday schools are blessed institutions, but they should be strengthened by the teachings of the fireside. The mother's lips must enforce the teacher's counsel.

May this little volume be blessed by God, and become profitable "for instruction in righteousness," both to the teacher and the taught.

NEW-YORK, *January*, 1856.

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A GUIDE
FOR
INFANT TEACHERS.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.

When the school has assembled, a bell should be lightly rung to call the scholars to order. The roll should then be called and marked. One of the hymns, which has been previously explained to them in the Additional Exercises, should be sung in concert by teachers and children, all standing. A motion of the Teacher's hand should then cause them to be seated, when the Teacher may say,

Teacher. My dear children, we are now going to pray. What is prayer?

Children. It is to speak to God, and to ask him to give us what we need.

T. Can you see God to ask him for what you need?

C. No, we cannot see God, but we know that he sees us.

T. How do you know that God sees us ?

C. The Bible says that his eyes behold the children of men. *Psa. xi, 4.*

T. Tell me one text in the Bible which teaches us that we shall be heard when we speak to God in prayer.

C. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. *James iv, 8.*

T. Is it by prayer that we draw nigh to God ?

C. Yes, if we think of God when we speak to him, and believe that he is near to hear and answer our prayer.

T. In whose name must we pray ?

C. In the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

T. What does the Bible say about praying in the name of Christ ?

C. Jesus said, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. *John xvi, 23.*

T. Then, my dear children, arise, fold your hands, and close your eyes, while we pray to God in the name of Jesus Christ, knowing that he will hear our prayers, and draw nigh to us while we endeavor to draw nigh to him.

Then the teacher shall repeat, sentence by sentence, the following prayer, or one equally simple, the children repeating each sentence after her, and, at its close all together saying the Lord's Prayer.

PRAYER OF THE TEACHERS AND CHILDREN.

Our heavenly Father, we come unto thee. We are unworthy, yet we know that thou wilt hear our prayers. Make us sorry for having sinned against thee. Forgive our sins, and make us the lambs of thy flock. Jesus called little children to him when he lived in this world, and he will receive us now. May we listen to his voice, and follow him always. Be with us now. May we love the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Help us to love and understand the Bible. May we do what it commands. Bless our dear parents, and brothers, and sisters. Bless our teachers. Bless our minister. May his words do us good to-day. And after we have all served thee on earth, may we be so happy as to meet in heaven at last, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we

forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Then, while the children are still standing, the teacher shall offer up a short prayer, in this manner :

TEACHER'S PRAYER.

Hear, O Lord our God, the prayer which these children have offered unto thee. May each of them be made thine through faith in Jesus Christ. Help us to do our duty by them. May we feed the lambs of Jesus with the pure milk of his word. Bless the instruction which we are about to give them. May we do it with prayerful hearts, and with enlightened minds, and may thy blessing be with us this day and forever, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

Then shall be unitedly sung a hymn of the teacher's selection.

First Exercise.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Teacher. Can you tell me why the prayer which you just now repeated is called the Lord's Prayer?

Children. Because the Lord Jesus Christ taught it to his disciples.

T. Who is our Father in heaven?

C. God.

T. You say, Hallowed be thy name. What is meant by that?

C. We ask that God's name, God's word, God's house, and everything through which he speaks to us, may be honored and loved.

T. Does God speak to us in his house?

C. Yes, by his ministers when they preach to us.

T. Does God speak to us in the Bible?

C. Yes, the Bible is God's word, and it speaks to us as truly as if we heard his voice in the heavens.

T. Yes, it is true that God speaks to us in all these ways, and in many more. Therefore, it is mocking him to pray that we may hallow his name, and yet be careless

and trifling when we hear his word read or preached, and it is wrong to think of other things when we pretend to pray to him. What is the next petition after Hallowed be thy name ?

C. Thy kingdom come.

T. Whose kingdom ?

C. Christ's kingdom.

T. What do we mean by this petition ?

C. We ask that all the world may be made holy, and that Christ's kingdom may be set up upon the earth.

T. What is the next petition ?

C. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

T. What do these words mean ?

C. We pray that we may learn to do God's will as perfectly as the angels do in heaven.

T. What do we ask in the fourth petition ?

C. Give us this day our daily bread.

T. What do we pray for here ?

C. That God would give us what we need for our bodies and our souls.

T. What is the next petition ?

C. Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

T. For what do we pray in this petition ?

C. That God would pardon our sins, and enable us to forgive others.

T. What do we next pray for?

C. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

T. What does this mean?

C. We here ask that we may not be tempted to sin against God, or that, if we are tempted, God would keep us from listening to the temptation, and sinning against him.

T. What is the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer?

C. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

T. These are words of praise to God. They declare that all things are his. They acknowledge him as the most powerful and glorious of beings. Amen means, So let it be; we rejoice that it is so.

This Exercise will close by singing Hymn 282 of the Sunday School Hymn Book of the Methodist Episcopal Church, commencing,

“ Our Father in heaven,
We hallow thy name.”

After singing this hymn, those of the children who have verses to recite, may stand up, one by one, and repeat them to the teacher. It is of great importance that they should be taught to speak distinctly and audibly, so that the whole school may be profited by the recital.

Second Exercise.

The children will now stand and sing the 124th Hymn,

“I think when I read that sweet story of old.”

Teacher. Where do you read the sweet story of which you sung?

Children. In the nineteenth chapter of Matthew, and in the tenth chapter of Mark.

T. When was it that Jesus was here upon earth?

C. More than eighteen hundred years ago.

T. Why did Jesus come down upon earth?

C. That he might teach us to be good, and save us from eternal death, by dying on the cross for us.

T. What did Jesus do in the world before he died for it?

C. He went about doing good. He made lame people walk, and blind people see, and sick people well.

T. Now tell me about Jesus putting his arms around little children, and of his laying his hands upon them, and of the kind words which he said.

C. Some little children were brought by their mothers to Jesus. They wished him to put his hands upon them and bless them; but the disciples, who were twelve men that accompanied Jesus when he went about doing good, did not wish the mothers to carry their children to Jesus. They thought he was

too great to take notice of such little ones. They ordered their mothers to take them away; but Jesus told his disciples not to do so. He took them up in his arms and blessed them.

T. That is a sweet story indeed. Jesus loved little children when he took them up in his arms and blessed them; and he loves them now. He sees them from his home in heaven. He knows every little girl and boy who prays to him, and tries to do his will. But what words did Jesus say about little children then?

C. Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.
Matthew xix, 4.

T. It is pleasant to think how many little children are living with Jesus in heaven. Some of you, perhaps, have a little brother or sister there. They are very happy in heaven with God our heavenly Father, and with Jesus Christ, and with the holy angels. It is pleasant to be near the Saviour. But we need not wait until we die to be near him. He comes to his children in this world. He is willing to come to us here in this room. We cannot see him with our eyes, but we may

know that he is here by the peace and love which we may feel in our hearts. The night before he died, Jesus took his disciples to a garden near Jerusalem. A path, bordered by grape-vines, led from the city to the garden. The full moon was shining upon it. Jesus was going to be taken from his disciples. After a little while they would see him no more. And yet he told them that they could be as near to him as the branches of the grape-vine are to the firm, strong stalk from which they spring. So we can be fastened on the Saviour. Pray, my dear children, that this may be the case with you. Say, "Jesus, bring me near to thee. Make me a branch of the True Vine." Try to remember what we tell you. You may not quite understand all we say to you now, but you will understand it better in future years. Yet we try to talk simply and plainly to you now, that we may teach you the things of God. We try to make you understand what you sing, and the lessons which you learn. And when we go home, we pray that God will bless the

words which we have spoken to you. But now I must ask you one question : Suppose the children who were brought to Jesus had turned away from him and said, "I do not want you to put your hands upon me. I do not care for your blessing." Do you suppose Jesus would have blessed them ?

C. No, not if they turned away from him.

T. You have pious parents, who bring you to Jesus every day. Every day they kneel down before him and say, "Bless my children." But the children, too, must look to Jesus. They must stretch out their hands toward him. It would, indeed, be dreadful if the children were to refuse the blessing which their parents ask for them, and which Jesus is so willing to give.

A hymn, at the discretion of the teacher, will now be sung.

Third Exercise.

THE CATECHISM.

This is taught in regular order, as divided in the book, one part to be recited each Sunday, until the whole is learned. The scholars, in reciting this, all respond as usual, with one voice. It is proper to give occasional explanations throughout the lesson, as on the first answer, for instance :

Teacher. Who made you ?

Children. God.

T. Can you tell me what the word God means ?

C. The word *God* means *Good*.

T. Yes, that is the meaning of the word. God has given himself that name. It shows us what God is. He is good, perfectly, entirely good. There is no *shadow* in him.

Again, on the second question, may be asked,

T. What is a Creator ?

C. One who makes something out of nothing.

[*Upon this the teacher can explain how it is that God is really the Creator of all things, and how his works differ from those of man.*]

This Exercise will demand previous study on the part of the teacher, in order to render her language sufficiently simple and lucid for the comprehension of the class. Here sing a hymn, selected at the discretion of the teacher.

Fourth Exercise.

SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS.

Teacher. Where shall wisdom be found,
and where is the place of understanding?
Job xxviii, 12.

Children. The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom.
Job xxviii, 28.

T. Seek ye the Lord while he may be
found ; call ye upon him while he is near.
Isaiah lv, 6.

C. O God, thou art my God ; early will I seek thee.
Psalms lxiii, i.

T. God so loved the world that he gave
his only begotten Son, that whosoever be-
lieveth on him should not perish, but have
everlasting life. *John iii, 16.*

C. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all
acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to
save sinners. *1 Tim. i, 15.*

T. Come unto me, all ye that labor and
are heavy laden, and I will give you
rest. *Matthew xi, 28.*

C. Let us, therefore, come boldly unto the throne
of grace, that we may obtain mercy. *Hebrews iv, 6.*

T. It is not the will of your Father

which is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. *Matthew* xviii, 14.

C. Of such is the kingdom of heaven. *Mark* x, 4.

T. Despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. *Matt.* xviii, 10.

C. Though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly. *Psalms* cxxxviii, 6.

T. I love them that love me, and those that seek me early shall find me. *Prov.* viii, 17.

C. I lift up my soul unto thee. *Psalms* cxliii, 8.

T. Suffer little children to come unto me. *Mark* x, 14.

C. And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come; and let him that heareth say, Come; and let him that is athirst come. *Revelation* xxii, 17.

T. Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever. Amen. *Rev.* v, 14.

Fifth Exercise.

Commence with singing Hymn 163 of the Sunday-School Hymns,

“Jesus, Saviour, Son of God,
Who for me life’s pathway trod.”

After which the teacher says :

Now I will tell you, children, a little story. Next Sunday I should like some of you to tell it to me. It is found in the First Book of Samuel. There are two books of that name in the Bible. They are called the First and Second Books of Samuel. They are both full of beautiful stories. When you go home, those of you who do not read can ask your parents to read to you some stories from these books, or to tell you one of them, as I am now going to do.

There was once a good woman named Hannah. She had a kind husband, but no child. She prayed God to give her one. She intended, if He would do so, to try to make him good, and to give him back to the Lord to be a minister in his house. God heard her prayer, and gave her a lit-

tle son. She called his name Samuel, which means, Asked of God.

The ark of the Lord was in the temple at Shiloh. People used to go up thither to worship God, as we now go to our churches. It was there that Hannah went up to pray to God for a little son. It was there that he was to live as soon as he grew old enough to be separated from his mother.

When he was weaned his mother took him to the temple. A good old priest named Eli lived there. I suspect Hannah asked him to be kind to her little boy. She would be lonely without him, but she was too good to forget the promise that she had made before Samuel was born, to give him to the Lord. She bade him good-by, and left him in the temple with Eli. Samuel wore a white linen dress, and helped Eli to wait upon the altars. A sacrifice was laid upon them. The smoke arose toward heaven, just as the prayers of Christians now rise up to God. The lambs that were offered upon those altars showed how Jesus, the Lamb of God, was to come many years after to die for the

sins of the world. Samuel slept in a little bed alone. Holy angels watched around that little bed. Samuel was a pious child, and God gives his angels charge over those whom he loves. Samuel's mother visited him every year, and she always brought him a little coat, which she made for him at home. One night Samuel heard his name called when he had lain down upon his bed. He ran to Eli, for he thought it was he who called him. But Eli told him that he had not called, and bade him lie down again upon his bed. But the voice twice more called Samuel. The third time Eli knew that it was the voice of God that called. He told Samuel to reply, if it spoke to him again, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth." Samuel did so. Then God told Samuel of many things that were to take place. God's judgments were to come upon the house of Eli for the wickedness of his sons, who were not pious like their father. In the morning Eli asked Samuel what the Lord had told him. Samuel must have been sorry to tell the good priest of the sad prophecy

he had heard ; but he told him every word. It all came to pass as the Lord had said. The ark of God was taken from Shiloh by the enemies of the Lord. The sons of Eli were killed, and their father died of grief.

Samuel lived to be a very old man. He was a prophet and a judge in Israel. God was with him from the time he was a little child.

Much more of Samuel is told in the Bible. We read there how he poured oil over the head of Saul to make him a king. Saul was a very tall man. He was head and shoulders higher than any other man in Israel. Samuel also anointed another king, David, the fair and rosy shepherd boy, who wrote so many beautiful Psalms.

When Samuel died all Israel mourned for him. He was buried in his own house, at Ramah, the town in which he was born. Perhaps he was laid beside Hannah, the pious mother who asked God for him, and then gave him back to the Lord to be his forever.

After this little story, the children will sing the following hymn :

LITTLE SAMUEL.

When little Samuel woke,
And heard his Maker's voice,
At every word he spoke,
How much did he rejoice!
O! blessed, happy child, to find
The God of heaven so near and kind!

If God would speak to me,
And say he is my friend,
How happy I should be!
O! how would I attend!
The smallest sin I then should fear,
If God Almighty were so near.

And does he never speak?
O yes! for in his word,
He bids me come and seek
The God whom Samuel heard;
In almost every page I see,
The God of Samuel speaks to me.

And I beneath his care
May safely rest my head;
I know that God is near
To guard my little bed;
And every sin I well may fear
If God Almighty is so near.

Like Samuel, let me say
Whene'er I read his word,
"Speak, Lord; I would obey
The voice that Samuel heard;
And when I in thy house appear,
Speak, for thy servant waits to hear."

Sixth Exercise.

Teacher. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer. *Psalm* xix, 14-16.

Children. The Lord our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. Let him not leave us nor forsake us. *1 Kings* viii, 57.

T. Let your heart therefore be perfect with the Lord our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments. *1 Kings* viii, 61.

C. We will remember thy love. *Song of Sol.* i, 4.

T. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. *John* xiv, 27.

C. When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? *Job* xxxv, 29.

T. I have given them thy word. Sanctify them through thy truth. Thy word is truth. *John* xviii, 14-17.

C. I will meditate on thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. *Psalm* cxix, 15.

T. Now unto the King, eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.
 1 *Tim.* i, 17.

C. Praise ye the Lord. Unto him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. *Eph.* iii, 21.

A hymn will now be sung, if time admit. When the hour has expired, the school will close after singing

THE DOXOLOGY.

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ;
 Praise him, all creatures here below ;
 Praise him above, ye heavenly host,
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

The children will then be dismissed, seat by seat, in regular order.

ADDITIONAL LESSONS.

LESSON I.

THE LITTLE SHEPHERD BOY.

“He walk’d with God in holy joy ;
While yet his days were few,
The deep, calm spirit of the boy
To love and reverence grew.

Whether each nightly star to count
Judea’s hills he trod,
Or sought her flowers by stream and fount,
Alike he walk’d with God.”

EXERCISE.

The teacher will repeat the twenty-third Psalm, verse by verse, the scholars all together repeating each verse after her. She shall then ask,

Teacher. Who wrote this Psalm?

Children. David.

T. Who was David?

C. Once a little shepherd boy, and then King of Israel.

T. Was he a good man?

C. He was a man after God's own heart.

T. Now you must fancy that you see David, the little shepherd boy, sitting down on the hill-side. His crook is in his hand, and his snow-white sheep are cropping the grass beside him. The Bible tells us that David was a beautiful boy.* He was of small size, and fair, with rosy cheeks. David sees the green pastures around him, and the

“Silent waters, soft and slow,”

which glide gently at his feet. His sheep go down to the water to drink. They return and lie upon the dewy grass. David looks at his sheep, and says:

“The Lord is my Shepherd. He takes care of me, as I take care of my flock. I have brought them to a beautiful pasture, where they eat the fresh grass, and drink the pure water, which makes them healthy and strong. My heavenly Shepherd leads me in the same manner as I lead my sheep.

* He was ruddy and of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. 1 *Sam.* xvi, 12. He was a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. 1 *Sam.* xviii, 42.

He loves me, and he gives me all that it is best for me to have. I shall not want any good thing, because I am the lamb of my Father's flock."

Perhaps, as he thus speaks, the little shepherd boy sees one of his sheep go down to the river. It leans over to drink, and the sod breaks beneath its feet. It falls into the water. It will sink and drown! The watchful shepherd boy rushes down to the river. He stretches out his crook, and lays hold of the fleece of the sheep. The frightened creature is drawn to the shore. It is saved. It is laid on the grass. After a little while the shepherd boy calls to the sheep, and he rises and meekly follows his master up a steep path to the brow of the hill. There its fright is forgotten, and it begins to crop the flowery grass once more.

The pious shepherd boy, all flushed and warm, sits down under the shade of a cedar-tree to rest. Everything that passes around brings heavenly thoughts to his mind. "I too am a foolish sheep," he says; "but my heavenly Shepherd restores

my soul. He leadeth me beside the still waters. He saves me when I fall into danger, just as I have saved my silly, blundering sheep. His eye is ever on me. By and by I shall pass through a deep, dark valley. It is not like the bright sunny path that winds beside me now. It is like the valley which I see between those dark and craggy hills. But my loving Shepherd will go before me. Light is around him, and the path behind him is bright and cheerful. In that I will walk. I shall come to rough and rocky places, but I shall not stumble. My Shepherd will reach out a staff for me on which I can lean. My footsteps will not slide ; and the Lord, my Shepherd, will be with me before I reach that valley. He will keep me from those who are my enemies. They shall see that God takes care of me. He spreads my table, he feeds me, he fills my cup. It runs over with goodness. He will always be near me on earth, and I shall at last go to be with him in heaven."

Then the teacher will say, "We will

repeat that sweet Psalm ; you will understand it better now."

[*It is well to furnish some of the larger children with questions to take home with them, upon lessons like these, promising them a small book as a reward, provided they commit perfect answers to the questions.*]

LESSON II.

THE GREAT SHEPHERD.

"See the kind Shepherd, Jesus, stands,
And calls his flock by name."

EXERCISE.

Teacher. Where did David the Shepherd boy live ?

Children. In the land of Judea.

T. Whose son was David ?

C. The son of Jesse.

T. Did Jesus call himself a shepherd ?

C. Yes. He said, "I am the good Shepherd."

John x, 11.

T. Does he say that his sheep hear him ?

C. He says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." *John* x, 27.

T. What does David call the people of God?

C. The sheep of his pasture. *Psalms* c, iii.

T. What does he say of himself?

C. I have gone astray like a lost sheep. *Psa.* cxix, clxxvi.

T. What does Isaiah say?

C. All we like sheep have gone astray. *Isa.* liii, 6.

T. What did he say of Jesus?

C. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter. *Isa.* liii, 7.

T. What else?

C. As a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. *Isa.* liii, 7.

T. What did the shepherd boy say of God's care of his people?

C. They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. *Psa.* xxxiv, 10.

T. What does he say of his continual watch over them?

C. I am continually with thee. Thou hast holden me with thy right hand.

T. It is a blessed thing to have Christ for our good Shepherd. If we are the lambs of his flock, he will lead us also through pleasant pastures and beside still waters. If we are his, we shall have peace in our souls, even if there is noise all around us. The Good Shepherd, before he laid down

his life for the sheep, said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you," and his children feel that his words are true.

Sing the 125th Hymn of the Sunday-School Hymns.

"Shepherd of thy little flock,
Lead us to the shadowing rock."

LESSON III.

THE POOR AND NEEDY.

"But in my Father's book are writ
What names on earth shall lowliest prove,
That they in heaven may highest sit."

EXERCISE.

The 126th of the Sunday-School Hymns is sung.

Teacher. How do you know that God cares for the poor and needy?

Children. He says so in the Bible, and every word of the Bible is true.

T. Give me a text to prove that God cares for the poor?

C. He delivereth the poor from him that is too strong for him. *Psa. xxxv, 10.*

T. Where is the needy spoken of?

C. He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy. *Psa. lxxii, 13.*

T. Who gives you food, and clothes, and a pleasant home?

C. God our Maker.

T. But is it not your parents who give you these?

C. God gives us parents to provide these things for us, so they are really his gift.

T. Will this great God hear you when you pray to him?

C. Yes, he will hear us.

T. Give me a text to prove it.

C. Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. *Matt. vii, 7.*

T. Whom do you mean when you say,

“He who reigns above the sky
Once became as poor as I?”

C. Jesus, who lived thirty years upon the earth, and was poorer than any of us.

T. The hymn says,

“He whose blood for me was shed.”

Was his blood really shed for you?

C. Yes, Jesus shed his blood for all of us.

T. Dear children, try to feel this. You must not only think that Jesus died for

the whole world, but that he died for each of you. One of our hymns says,

“For *me*, even for *me*, he bled.”

So you, little Charles, and Henry, and Ann, and Mary, must think that Jesus died for you, and consider how much you should love him for doing so. And by thinking this over very often, and praying to God to make you feel how good Jesus was to die for you, you will learn to love Jesus more and more, and become more thankful to him for the great love he has shown in dying for you. Tell me of one who, when he was in great agony, said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me.”

C. The thief who was crucified by the side of Jesus.

T. What answer did Jesus make?

C. This day shalt thou be with me in Paradise.

T. So you see how Jesus answered the prayer of the poor and needy. The thief was indeed poor. He needed the Saviour’s pardon. He had no one else to go to. As he hung beside the Saviour in great agony, he turned his dying eyes upon Jesus, and said, “Lord, remember me.”

Jesus answered him immediately, "This day thou shalt be with me in Paradise." What kind and loving words these were ! And Jesus will say kind words to you also, if you go to him and say, "Lord, remember *me*." You cannot see Jesus as the thief did, but Jesus sees you. He hears every word you say. He knows every thought that is in your heart. What does that line in the hymn mean which says,

"He had not where to lay his head?"

C. Jesus said, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head."

T. How do you know that God is with you when you sleep and when you wake?

C. David said, "I laid me down and slept ; I awaked ; for the Lord sustained me." *Psalm* iii, 5.

T. If we labor for God in this world, will he strengthen and bless us ?

C. Yes, he says, "Wait on the Lord, and he shall strengthen thy heart." *Psalm* xxvii, 14.

T. And what does the Bible say of the rest which we shall have with him,

"When this short life is past?"

C. It says, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord ; they rest from their labors, and their works do follow them." *Revelation* xiv, 13.

T. How these words should make you wish to labor for God. None of you are too small to do something for him. You can try to bring a poor child to Sunday school, or teach him to read, or read the Bible to a sick person, or try to do something for the missionary cause. In all these things you are laboring for God in a small way, and when you are thus doing, dear children, you may expect that

“He will bless you with his smile.”

LESSON IV.

THE COMMANDMENTS.

“Save that each little voice, in turn,
Some glorious truth proclaims;
What sages would have died to learn,
Now taught by cottage dames.”

EXERCISE.

The ten commandments illustrated by the New Testament.

Teacher. Repeat the first commandment.

Children. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Ex. xx, 3.

T. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.
Luke xvi, 13.

C. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth : thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them : for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me ; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments. *Verses* 4, 5, 6.

T. We ought not to think that the God-head is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by man's device. God is a spirit.
Acts xvii, 29 ; *John* iv, 24.

C. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain ; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who taketh his name in vain. *Verse* 7.

T. Swear not at all. *Matthew* v, 34.

C. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work : but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God : in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates ; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day ; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. *Verses* 8, 9, 10, 11.

T. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day. *Revelation* i, 10.

C. Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. *Verse* 12.

T. Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. *Ephesians* vi, i.

C. Thou shalt not kill. *Verse* 13.

T. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. *1 John* iii, 15.

C. Thou shalt not commit adultery. *Verse* 14.

T. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. *Matt.* xix, 6.

C. Thou shalt not steal. *Verse* 15.

T. Let him that stole steal no more. *Eph.* iv, 28.

C. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. *Verse* 16.

T. All liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone. *Rev.* xxi, 8.

C. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's. *Verse* 17.

T. And having food and raiment, let us

be therewith content. But they that will be rich, fall into temptation and a snare, and many foolish and hateful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.
1 *Tim.* vi, 8, 9.

You have now repeated the ten commandments, my dear children. Tell me where they were given.

C. Upon Mount Sinai.

T. By and to whom were they given?

C. By God to Moses.

T. How?

C. With thunderings and lightnings, amid fire and darkness, and the sound of a trumpet.

T. What did Jesus say in John xiv, 15?

C. If ye love me, keep my commandments.

T. Are we as much bound to keep God's commandments as the Israelites were?

C. We are.

T. Can we, of ourselves, keep the commandments?

C. No, not of ourselves, but God will give us strength to keep them if we ask him to do so in the name of Jesus Christ.

“To his blessed will resign'd,
And stay'd on that alone,
We a perfect strength shall find,
His faithful mercies own.”

LESSON V.

THE NOBLE LADY.

“‘I dwell among mine own.’ O happy thou!”

IN the land of Syria there lived, many years since, a rich and noble lady.* She was kind and generous as well as rich and great. She lived in the place where she was born, and her friends and relations were all around her.†

I have sometimes fancied that I could see the pleasant house in which this happy woman lived. There are many pretty hills in the land of Syria, and her house, perhaps, stood on one of them. Olive and cedar trees may have shaded it, and lofty palm-trees, while fig-trees and pomegranates probably grew in her garden. Singing birds and turtle-doves would sing and coo among the trees, and grape-vines with clusters of fruit would fall over the wall.

One day a good minister or prophet

* 2 Kings iv, 8.

† 2 Kings iv, 13.

came to the house of this Shunammite woman, for so she is called in the story which is told of her. His name was Elisha. He had traveled far, and was, perhaps, warm, tired, and covered with dust. The lady received him kindly. She gave him water to wash himself, and food to eat. Perhaps she gave him some figs and grapes, for they were plentiful in that country. It was a sweet resting-place for Elisha. He was glad to stop there.

One day the woman said to her husband, "This is a good man who visits us; let us make a little room for him." Her husband consented. The lady had a neat little room made in the wall, on purpose for the prophet. She furnished it with a little bed, a table, a seat, and a candlestick. How pleased Elisha must have been with that cool, shady little room when the good Shunammite showed it to him! What pleasant hours he spent there! How often he kneeled down by his little bed and prayed for the kind people who had made him so comfortable!

Elisha wished to make them some re-

turn. He sent his servant to ask the woman to come to him. When she came Elisha said, "How kind you have been! What shall I do for you? Shall I ask the king to give you anything? Shall I speak to the captain of the army for you?" The woman answered that she did not wish more riches or honor than she already possessed. She said, "I dwell among mine own people." The friends she loved were all around her. Elisha was sorry that he could do nothing for her. But after the woman had left them, the servant of Elisha thought of a gift that would make the lady happy. He said, "She hath no child." He said this because he thought, that if Elisha would ask God to give her a child, God would hear his prayers. Elisha then bade the servant call the woman again. He called her, and when she came, Elisha said, "Thou shalt soon have a little son."

No doubt these words made her very happy. The Jewish women knew that the promised Saviour was to be born of a woman. So, whenever a son was born,

they hoped it might be the Messiah. You remember it was said early in Genesis, that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head, and you know that Jesus, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was that promised seed who came to destroy Satan and his kingdom.

LESSON VI.

THE WELCOME GIFT.

“ Her gentle teaching sweetly blends
With the clear light of truth.”

THE little baby was born. He grew to be a fine boy. At length he could run about. How his father must have liked to lead him by the hand, and how much he must have enjoyed his company! He was an old man, and he thought that his son would live to take care of his mother when he was gone. He may have thought that he would remain in the pretty house in which the chamber of the prophet was,

and sit under the trees which he himself had planted.

There were no bound books in those days. So I suppose the little boy's mother taught him to read from a parchment roll, on which the letters were engraved with a pen, or a sharp stick. The art of printing was not known until long after this time. No doubt his mother taught her son to pray to the God of Israel, and told him what God had done for that people ; how he gave them Moses as a leader, and how the waves of the Red Sea parted before them when he led them out of Egypt. Perhaps, as she told him the story of Moses, she said, "Your mother is happier than the mother of Moses, my boy. There is no one to deprive me of you. You will always be mine. When I die you will close my eyes, and then you will lay me to rest with my fathers. When I have left you, you will water the flowers which I planted, and, for my sake, watch over the vines and the shrubs that I have loved."

The warm weather came. The golden grain was ready for the harvest. Ripe

fruit was upon the trees, and white and purple grapes were on the vine. Sweet and juicy figs grew on their polished stems. There was a murmur of bees, and a joyful song of birds in the air.

Then the father went into the fields to see the reapers, and he took his little boy with him. This is always a merry time with children in our own country. No doubt our little Syrian boy loved it also, and, I suppose, both his father and the reapers liked to have his company with them in the fields. Perhaps he had his own little reaping-hook, and tried to imitate the reapers in making up their sheaves. Then he would pick a bunch of flowers for his father, and afterward sit down on the grass, and when he was rested he would rise up and go to work again.

The Bible does not say that the little boy actually did these things. It only says, in the fourth chapter of the Second Book of Kings, that he went into the harvest-field with his father. But I know that little boys act alike in all times and places.

After a little while the boy's head

ached. It grew worse. He could work and play no longer. He went to his father, and looked up in his face, and said, "My head! my head!"

I think that his father must have seen that his son's eyes were heavy, and that his cheek was pale. Perhaps he thought that he had played too much and tired himself. He said to his servant, "Carry him to his mother."

The mother was frightened to see her little boy look so ill. She took him on her lap. She saw that he must die, her dear and lovely boy!

LESSON VII.

THE ANSWERED PRAYER.

"Pray for the sad and broken-hearted mother!
Pray that thy voice may whisper words of peace!"

THE child died. His mother washed his little body in water. She laid him on the bed in the little room which she had

furnished so prettily for the prophet, and she went out and shut the door. She went to her husband, and asked him to have an ass saddled for herself and for her servant. She thought of "the man of God," to whose prayers she was indebted for her son. It was no wonder that she wished to see him now. She did not tell her husband that the child was dead. But she went, with her servant, toward the place where the man of God was.

They rode very quickly toward Mount Carmel. They passed over brooks with white pebbles at the bottom, and with green willows hanging over the water. They came to a valley in which there were wheat fields, and barley, and orchards of fruit. Then they rode through rocky places until they came near to a hill on which the prophet sat.

Elisha saw her coming. He said to his servant, "Go and meet her. Ask her, Is it well with thee? Is it well with thy husband? Is it well with the child?"

The pious woman answered, "It is well." But when she came to the prophet she

fell at his feet, and told him of the death of her darling boy. She clung to the man of God, just as Christian mothers cling to Jesus Christ in their deep sorrow. She knew the power of the prophet's prayers. She would not leave him.

Elisha told his servant to take his staff and hasten onward, without stopping by the way. "Take it to the house," he said, "and lay it on the face of the child."

The servant did so, but it did not waken the dead child. So he told Elisha when he met him at the door.

Elisha went into the little room and prayed unto the Lord. Then he stretched himself upon the child, and it became warm, and sneezed, and opened its eyes, and the prophet gave him to his happy mother.

" Bless'd eyes, to see that smiling gleam
Upon those slumbering features glow,
See the life-giving stream
Touching that marble brow."

LESSON VIII.

MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS.

“Was not our Lord a little child,
Taught by degrees to pray,
By father dear and mother mild,
Instructed day by day?”

EXERCISE.

Teacher. Where is that pretty story which I have just told you to be found?

Children. In the Second Book of Kings; the twelfth book in the Bible.

T. Who was Elisha?

C. A prophet of the Lord.

T. Whose mantle fell upon Elisha?

C. The mantle of Elijah.

T. When?

C. As he went up to heaven in a chariot of fire.

T. What did he do with the mantle of Elijah?

C. With it he smote the waters of Jordan, and they parted on each side.

T. What became of the wicked children who said naughty words to Elisha?

C. Bears came out of a wood and killed them.

T. We are told of several children in the Bible who were given in answer to prayer. The Shunammite's son, as you have been told, was one. By what prophet was he raised to life?

C. By the prophet Elisha.

T. Whose son did Jesus raise from the dead?

C. The son of a widow who lived in the city of Nain.

T. By whose power did Elisha raise the Shunammite's son?

C. By the power of God.

T. By whose power did Jesus raise the son of the widow?

C. By his own power.

T. How do you know this?

C. Jesus is God, and says, "I have the keys of hell and of death." *Rev. i, 18.*

"Thou, who through Elisha's faith
 Raised again that little one;
 And, by thine own almighty power,
 Call'd to life the widow's son,
 Hear us when to thee we pray,
 Be our everlasting stay,
 When earthly things shall pass away."

LESSON IX.

GOD'S LITTLE ONES.

“ By cool Siloam's shady rill,
How fair the lily grows !
How sweet the breath beneath the hill,
Of Sharon's dewy rose !

“ Lo ! such the child whose early feet,
The paths of peace have trod ;
Whose secret heart with influence sweet
Is upward drawn to God.”

EXERCISE.

Teacher. Tell me of a pious boy who lived in the time of Adam ?

Children. Abel.

T. How do you know that Abel was a pious boy ?

C. He gave his prettiest lamb to God.

T. What did that pretty lamb represent ?

C. Jesus, the Lamb of God.

T. Abel, that pious boy, did not know that his name would be remembered so long. He is mentioned in the Book of Hebrews, and we tell you of him now, although

hundreds of years have passed since he offered up the lamb. Tell me of another pious boy

C. Isaac.

T. Whose son was Isaac?

C. He was Abraham's only son. God told Abraham to take Isaac upon the top of a mountain, and offer him up for a burnt-offering. The fire was kindled on the altar, and Abraham had a knife in his hand to kill his son, when God called to him from heaven, and told him to stop. He had a real lamb for him to offer up instead of Isaac.

T. I will now repeat a pretty little verse about this, which I would like you to say after me.

“Ages on ages pass'd away ;
At length the hour appointed came,
And on the mount of Calvary
God did indeed provide a Lamb.”

You know that Jesus was crucified on Mount Calvary. He was the Lamb provided by the loving Father to take away the sins of the world. You have just told me so, but I wish you always to notice how many signs of his death there were from the foundation of the world to his

coming in it to be a sacrifice for sin. Can you tell me of another pious boy ?

C. Jacob.

T. Will you tell me of a beautiful dream that Jacob had ? But perhaps I had better first tell it to you. Jacob was going to see his uncle. He came to a lonely plain one evening, when it was becoming dark, and laid down to sleep with a stone under his head. That was a hard pillow for one who had traveled all day. Before he slept Jacob prayed to God. You know that every good child does that. God showed Jacob that he heard his prayer. He saw in a dream, a ladder whose foot rested on the earth, but whose top was in heaven. Bright angels went up and down that ladder. The dream was sent to show Jacob that God's angels were there to protect him. And they come now to take care of good people, just as they did then. God sends them to those who pray to him. Tell me of another pious young person.

C. Joseph.

T. Yes, Joseph was pious from a child. Where is his beautiful history written ?

C. In ten chapters of Genesis, from the 37th to the 47th.

T. Tell me of another pious child.

C. King Josiah.

T. What of him ?

C. He was but eight years old when he was made king, and he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord.

T. There is another spoken of in the New Testament, who was a minister, and a great friend of the Apostle Paul.

C. It was Timothy, who had a pious mother and grandmother.

T. Are there any books which bear his name in the Bible ?

C. Yes ; the First and Second Books of Timothy.

T. Who wrote them ?

C. The Apostle Paul.

T. You see, then, dear children, that there have been those who loved God from their youth. You may love him too. It is not necessary to wait until you grow larger before you begin to love and serve him. Ask him to enable you to serve him now. Ask him to teach you to keep his commandments. He has told you to obey your parents, and to speak the truth. If you truly love God, you will keep these com-

mandments. Never forget to pray to him. Though he is so great, he will hear the prayer of a little child if it is offered in the Saviour's name. May you all become God's little ones indeed!

“Our Saviour bids the children come;
He bids us come to him;
And, as in other days, he spreads
His arms to take us in.”



LESSON X.

THE WATCHMAN.

“Not keener burns in the chill morning sky,
The herald star,
Whose torch afar
Shadows and boding night-birds fly.”

EXERCISE. Singing.

Children. Watchman, tell us of the night,
What its signs of promise are.

Teacher. Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height
See the glory beaming star.

C. Watchman, does its beauteous ray
Aught of hope or joy foretell?

T. Traveler, yes, it brings the day,
Promised day of Israel.

- C.* Watchman, tell us of the night ;
Higher yet the star ascends.
- T.* Traveler, blessedness and light,
Peace and truth, its course portends.
- C.* Watchman, will its beams alone,
Gild the spot that gave them birth ?
- T.* Traveler, ages are its own ;
See it bursts o'er all the earth.
- C.* Watchman, tell us of the night,
For the morning seems to dawn.
- T.* Traveler, darkness takes its flight ;
Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
- C.* Watchman, let thy wand'ring cease ;
Hie thee to thy quiet home.
- T.* Traveler, lo ! the Prince of Peace,
Lo ! the Son of God is come.

T. On what part of the Bible is this hymn founded ?

C. Isaiah xxi, 11, 12.

T. Repeat the text.

C. Watchman, what of the night ? Watchman, what of the night ! The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night ; if ye will inquire, inquire ye ; return, come.

T. Is the kingdom of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, to be fully set up in this world ?

C. Yes, for we are taught to pray, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

LESSON XI.

THE SONG OF HEAVEN.

“Come, let us join the hosts above,
Now in our youthful days.”

EXERCISE.

Sing the hymn commencing,

“Come, let us join the hosts above.”

Teacher. What is the song of the hosts above which we are called to join?

Children. Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood. *Rev.* v, 9.

T. How do you know that the great God will not despise feeble ones like ourselves?

C. The eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy. *Psalms* xxxiii, 18.

T. How do you know that the songs of children rise to heaven and please the King of kings?

C. Jesus loved children. He took them in his arms and blessed them. He said that men must not despise such little ones; that their angels do behold the face of our Father in heaven; and that it is

not his will that any of them should perish. So if he loves us so much, our songs will please him.

T. Yes, it is so. Jesus loved little children when he was upon earth, and he loves them just as well now that he has ascended into heaven. So those are true words which say,

“He loves to be remember’d thus,
And honor’d for his grace.”

Where does Jesus speak of things which are hidden from the wise and prudent, and yet are revealed unto babes?

C. In Luke x, 21, he says those words.

T. The hymn which you have just sung concludes thus :

“Children and cherubim adore
The Lord of earth and heaven.”

If you are indeed uniting with the angels of heaven in the hymns which you sing in the Sunday school, how glad you should be, how thoughtful too. This singing God’s praises is not a mere form. There should be no trifling actions, no smiling, no looking around at such times. There should be quiet, cheerful thoughts of God. And if you sing his praises thus, God will

be pleased, and he will fill your hearts with peace, and make our Sunday school a very happy place.

“Vainly we offer an ample oblation ;

Vainly with *words* would his favor secure :

Yet dear to the Lord is the heart's adoration,

And *precious the prayers of the young and the poor.*”



LESSON XII.

THE LITTLE BOAT AND THE YOUNG SAILOR.

“And the mother gave, with tears and pain,

The flowers she most did love ;

She knew she should find them all again

In the brighter land above.”

FAR away from us, over the great sea, is a country through which there flows a bright and beautiful river. Its water is said to be the sweetest in the world. Those who have lived beside the river, and drank of its waters, can never relish any other. The land in that country is very fruitful, although it seldom rains.

The river overflows its banks, and keeps the land moist. That country is named Egypt, and the people once thought so much of that river that they worshiped it instead of the great Father who gave it to them. They prayed also to bulls, and cats, and crocodiles. But even there were some people who prayed to the true God. They were the children of Israel. Jacob left his children in Egypt, and their children became slaves to the Egyptians. The Egyptians almost killed the children of Israel with hard work. The wicked king made a law that every little boy-baby that was born should be drowned in the river.

There was a good woman to whom God gave a little baby. It was so fair and beautiful that its mother thought she would try to hide him from the men who threw the little children into the river.

When he was three months old she could hide him no longer. Egypt is a warm country, and the houses are very open, so that the little baby's laugh and joyous cry would be heard by the cruel

men who passed along to look up the children that were to be killed.

The mother expected, every moment, that her baby would be taken from her. She prayed to God to help her, and he put a plan into her mind ; for he did not intend that the baby should be drowned. He had a great work for him to do when he became a man.

The mother made a little basket of the rushes which grew by the river's side. It was just large enough to hold the baby. I think that the mother sent up a prayer to God with every ozie which she twisted into the basket. Yet she and the baby's sister, who was named Miriam, must have felt as if they were making a coffin for their little darling. When the basket, or ark, as it was called, was woven, they made it tight with pitch, so that no water could enter it. Then I suppose the mother washed her baby, and dressed him in his prettiest clothes. She put him to sleep, and kissed him very softly, lest she should awaken him. Ah ! she felt as if she had kissed and nursed her baby for the last time.

And the father and Miriam, I suppose, came and kissed their darling also.

The mother carried the ark with the baby down to the river's brink, and laid it among the reeds. She told Miriam to stand near the ark, and see what would become of it. I think she then went home to pray to God to save her poor little boy.

With a sorrowful heart Miriam must have looked upon that little vessel. The reeds around it were full of crocodiles. "If man does not drown the baby, perhaps they will devour him," she must have thought. She could do but one thing; pray to God; and no doubt she did this, even when she cried and trembled with fear.

While Miriam stood there, she saw a company of ladies go down to the river. The Princess of Egypt walked at their head. She was the daughter of that very king who said the babies must be drowned. Miriam saw the princess look toward the basket. Then she saw her speak to a lady, who went and brought the basket to her. The princess raised the cover, and saw a

lovely baby. The light coming suddenly to his eyes, perhaps, awakened him. "The babe wept." Now the princess was not cruel like her father. She pitied the baby, and said, "It is one of the Hebrew children. I will call him Moses, because I drew him out of the water."

Miriam was encouraged when she heard the princess speak thus. She went to her and said, "Shall I go and call a nurse of the Hebrew women for thee?"

The princess told her to go, and she went for the baby's own mother. Perhaps she ran into the house saying, "Mother, mother, the baby is saved ! The princess has taken it ! She has sent for thee to be its nurse !"

What a happy woman was the mother ! She hastened to the princess, who said, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages." So her dear baby was given back to its mother.

"Again he on her bosom smiled,
The lost, but now recover'd child."

LESSON XIII.

THE GREAT LEADER.

“Thy guardian fire, thy guiding cloud,
Still let them gild our walls.”

EXERCISE.

Questions on the foregoing narrative.

Teacher. What people were in bondage to the Egyptians?

Children. The Hebrews, or children of Israel.

T. Whom did God appoint to be their deliverer?

C. Moses.

T. How was Moses saved from death?

C. His mother laid him in a basket by the river's side.

T. Who took him from the basket?

C. The Princess of Egypt.

T. Who led the children of Israel out of Egypt?

C. Moses.

T. How did Moses know in what direction to lead them?

C. A cloudy pillar went before him in the day, and a fiery pillar at night.

T. How did they cross the deep sea ?

C. Moses stretched out his rod, and the waters parted so that they went upon dry land.

T. How did they get water in the desert ?

C. Moses smote the rock, and water gushed out.

T. To whom did God give the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai ?

C. He told them to Moses, who gave them to the people.

T. Where did Moses die ?

C. On Mount Pisgah.

T. Yes. Moses stood upon Mount Pisgah, and saw the land to which he had led the Israelites, but he was not to enter it. He saw olive-trees, and fig-trees, and vines full of grapes upon the hill sides, and he saw cattle grazing in green pastures. But Moses was not to eat the fruit or the honey, or drink the milk of Canaan. He was going to a better country. His work on earth was done. He died on that mountain, and the Lord buried him; the Lord who took care of him when he was a little sailor in his tiny boat. And now he is with God in heaven. Once since he entered heaven he came down again, and

stood all bright and glorious with Elijah
on Mount Tabor.

“ And wonder turns to love ;
The desert tires not now ;
He bathes his weary soul
Where living waters flow.”

LESSON XIV.

GEMS FROM A GOLDEN CASKET.

“ Here light descending from above,
Directs our doubtful feet ;
Here promises of heavenly love
Our ardent wishes meet.”

EXERCISE.

Children. What shall I do to be saved ? *Acts xvi, 30.*

Teacher. Believe on the Lord Jesus
Christ, and thou shalt be saved. *Acts*
xvi, 31.

C. How should man be just with God ? *Job ix, 2.*

T. There is therefore now no condem-
nation to them which are in Christ Jesus,
who walk not after the flesh, but after the
Spirit. *Rom. viii, 1.*

C. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. *Psa.* li, 11.

T. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts : and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him ; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. *Isa.* lv, 7.

C. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 *John* iv, 10.

T. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 1 *John* iv, 9.

C. O the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God ! *Rom.* xi, 33.

T. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword ? *Rom.* viii, 35.

C. Who is he that condemneth ? It is Christ that died ; yea, rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us ? *Rom.* viii, 34.

T. God is gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises. Sing praises to our king, sing praises. *Psalms* xlvii, 5, 6.

C. We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 1 *John* ii, 1.

T. Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. *Rev.* xv, 3.

“Eye of God’s word! where’er we turn,
 Ever upon us! thy keen gaze
 Can all the depths of sin discern,
 Unravel every bosom’s maze.
 Who that has felt thy glance of dread
 Thrill through his heart’s remotest cells,
 About his path, about his bed,
 Can doubt what spirit in thee dwells?”

LESSON XV.

WHAT HOLY CHILDREN DO.

“Faint warblers of the earth! we would combine.
 Our trembling notes with heaven’s angelic lay.”

EXERCISE.

Sing the 223d of the Sunday-School Hymns.

“Holy children, read and pray,
 Love God’s holy word and day.”

Teacher. Who are holy children?

Children. Those who have repented of their sins and believe in Jesus.

T. What do holy children do ?

C. They read and pray.

T. What book do they love better than any other ?

C. The Holy Bible.

T. Tell me of one who was acquainted with the Bible from a child.

C. It was Timothy.

T. What does St. Paul say of Timothy ?
2 Tim. iii, 15.

C. And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures.

T. What did St. Paul say these were able to do ?

C. To make him wise unto salvation.

T. Through what ?

C. Through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

T. Do holy children love to pray ?

C. Yes. They cannot be God's people if they do not.

T. What other mark of a holy child is given in this hymn ?

C. They love God's holy day, the Sabbath.

T. There is another mark. What is it ?

C. They fly from sin.

T. Where will holy children go when they die ?

C. They soar to Christ above the sky.

T. What will they do then ?

C. " Take their seats around his throne,
Make his praise forever known."

T. That is a sweet little hymn and an instructive one. It teaches you that it is vain to think you are God's child unless you are willing to keep his commandments. The hymn says that holy children "fly from sin." Yes, even from the smallest sin. They will not be unforgiving; they will not say unkind words; they will not be selfish, nor lazy. They will try to be meek and humble, and to be loving to all around them. May you, my dear children, so live, that each of you may be truly styled,

"Now, the Saviour's holy child."

LESSON XVI.

THE TRUANT BOY.

“How yearns the father o’er his truant son!
How sad his course in shame and guilt begun,
Till to his early home by want and suff’ring won!”

EXERCISE.

Luke xv, verses 11-24.

Teacher. Repeat the eleventh and twelfth verses of the fifteenth chapter of Luke.

Children. A certain man had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

T. What did the son mean by the portion of goods that fell to him?

C. The money that his father intended to give him.

T. What is the next verse?

C. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance in riotous living.

T. What is meant by wasting his substance in riotous living?

C. It means that he spent the money which his father had given him, in a foolish and wicked manner.

T. Say the fourteenth verse.

C. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

T. What is a famine?

C. It is a want of sufficient food.

T. The next verse.

C. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

T. A citizen of that country means a man who lived there; but what are swine?

C. Pigs were called swine.

T. Say the sixteenth verse.

C. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat; and no man gave unto him.

T. What does that mean?

C. He was so hungry that he was glad to eat the same food that he gave the pigs, and nobody pitied or helped him.

T. Those with whom he had wasted the money which his kind father gave him, did not think of him then, although he was starving. He had sunk so low that they were ashamed of his acquaintance; for a keeper of pigs was the lowest of all occupations in that day. Repeat the seventeenth verse.

C. And when he came to himself, he said, How

many hired servants of my father have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger.

T. Now, in his misery, the truant boy remembers his father's plentiful house. There was no want there. Even the servants had more food than they could eat. He had been very foolish. He had acted like a person without reason. But now his senses began to come to him. Repeat the eighteenth verse, the nineteenth, and the first part of the twentieth.

C. I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son : make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father.

T. This was a wise resolution of the poor boy. Let us hear whether or not his father received him.

C. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran and fell upon his neck, and kissed him.

T. So you see how joyfully the father received his returning boy. He did not even wait for him to ask his pardon. We may fancy him sitting by his door. The sun is sinking behind the blue hills. The leaves wave with a gentle motion. The

hour is lovely, but the father thinks of his distant boy. He remembers what a sweet child he was; what a comfort he had been to him when he was a little boy. He remembers how he led him by the hand, and how he would come to him and climb up upon his knees. He did not think then that he would leave his father when he grew to be a man. These thoughts make him sorrowful. But he sees some one coming toward the house. It is a poor creature covered with rags. Yet there is something about him that draws the father's attention. That weak, tottering step, so different, yet reminds him of the bold, free step of his distant son. As the stranger comes nearer, he sees him look earnestly toward the house. Something within the father's heart tells him that it is his son, his long-lost son. He runs toward him. What did the son say in verse 21?

C. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

T. What was the father's answer?

C. And the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring

on his hand, and shoes on his feet : and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it ; and let us eat, and be merry : for this my son was dead, and is alive again ; he was lost, and is found.

T. We will try to explain this beautiful parable in the next lesson. It will teach us,

“Lost souls to love,
And view the least and worst with hope to meet above.”

LESSON XVII.

THE WANDERING SON.

“But when the broken spirit burns,
And would from sin depart,
The God of mercy never spurns
The humble, seeking heart.”

EXERCISE.

Teacher. Whom does the son in our former lesson represent ?

Children. All who have gone away from God.

T. Who is meant by the father of the wandering boy ?

C. God, our heavenly Father.

T. Have we ever gone away from God?

C. Yes, we all have done so.

T. How shall we return to him?

C. We must go to him, and tell him that we have sinned against him, and ask him to forgive us.

T. Will he forgive us then?

C. Yes, just as kindly as the father forgave his penitent son.

T. How must we come to our heavenly Father?

C. With faith in Jesus Christ.

T. Yes, we must have faith that he will save us. Faith is belief. If the son had not believed that his father was gracious and kind to forgive him his sins, he would have remained just as he was, and not have arisen and gone to him. So we must believe that God will pardon our sins before we have courage to seek him. He sent his Son to die for us, and his mercy is very great and wonderful. We need never despair of his goodness if we ask it in the name of Jesus. "There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Acts iv, 12. But that name is a refuge for the sinner.

None need despair who come unto God
through him.

“Then, on the incarnate Saviour’s breast,
The fount of sweetness, we will rest,
Our spirits every hour imbued
More deeply with his precious blood.”

LESSON XVIII.

THE DEAD IN CHRIST.

“We have not lost what God hath only hidden.”

EXERCISE.

“Thou art gone to the grave, but we will not deplore
thee,
Though sorrow and darkness encompass the tomb;
The Saviour hath pass’d through its portals before
thee,
And the light of his love is thy lamp through the
gloom.”

Teacher. I would not have you to be
ignorant concerning them which are
asleep, that ye sorrow not even as others
which have no hope. 1 *Thess.* iv, 13.

Children. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose
again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will
God bring with him. *Verse* 14.

T. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. *Rev.* xiv, 13.

C. They shall see his face, and his name shall be in their foreheads. *Rev.* xxii, 4.

T. The Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. *Rev.* vii, 17.

C. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. *1 Cor.* xv, 42, 43.

T. The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible. *Verse* 52.

C. When this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality.

T. Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. *Verse* 54.

C. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? *Verse* 55.

T. Thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Verse* 57.

C. There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. *Rev.* xxi, 4.

T. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light, and they shall reign forever and ever. *Rev. xxii, 5.*

Teacher and Children in concert.

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

“Faith sees the bright, eternal doors
Unfold to make his children way;
They shall be clothed with endless life,
And shine in everlasting day.”

LESSON XIX.

BLOSSOM AND FRUIT.

“The child-like faith, that asks not sight,
Waits not for wonder nor for sign,
Believes, because it loves aright,
Shall see things greater, things divine.”

But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected. 1 *John* ii, 5.

A LITTLE girl, named Lina, had a red morocco Bible, with pictures in it, given to her when she was six years old. She took it up stairs into her play-room, and there, in the midst of her dolls, her little tea-set, and other toys, kneeled down and said, “O heavenly Father! make me love the Bible better than anything else.”

Lina had heard the aunt with whom she lived say, that Christians preferred the Bible to any other book. God heard the prayer of this little girl. She believed that God would hear her for Jesus Christ's sake. She felt as sure of this as she did

that her aunt would listen to any reasonable request which she made her. So Lina had what we call faith when she prayed.

Then Lina went to her aunt and said, "Read to me, aunt, what God wishes me to do, and I will try to do it."

Her aunt read to her these words of Jesus : "Blessed are the meek. Blessed are the peace-makers." *Matthew* v, 5, 9. And she told her that meek people and peace-makers were gentle, kind, patient people, "not easily provoked." 1 *Cor.* xiii, 5. From that time, through the assistance of God's Spirit, Lina, who had once been a little peevish sometimes, became so sweet-tempered and gentle that every one remarked, "What a lovely child she is !"

She was told that Jesus sometimes taught by words, and sometimes by example. "He gave us a lesson in economy," said her aunt, "when he commanded the disciples to gather up the fragments, that nothing be lost, after he had fed five thousand people by his great power." After hearing this, little Lina used to be afraid of wasting a shred of cloth or a bit of

bread. When making her doll's clothes, she would take pleasure in gathering up the fragments, because Jesus did so ; and she wanted to be like Jesus. She read, " Children, obey your parents," *Eph.* vi, 1, and Lina was careful to obey them in the smallest things, although she was not with them at the time.

One day her aunt read, " Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost." *Matt.* xxviii, 19. Lina said : " Aunt, many nations have not been taught the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Why is it ?" She was told that the world was very large, and that Christian people did not think as much as they ought of the poor heathen. Lina said she was sorry for those who had no Bibles. " If they had, aunt," she said, " they would know how to do right ; but how can they know if they have no Bible to read ?"

From that time, this dear little girl was constantly making plans to send the Bible to the heathen. She said, " Since I have

read, in my little morocco Bible, the texts which aunt has marked for me, I have learned a great deal about God's will. If I could buy a great many Bibles, and mark some texts for the poor heathen, then I think they would leave off doing wicked things."

One day a lady came to the house and said, "O, Lina! what little fairy shoes you have on. They are the prettiest I ever saw." The next day Lina said, "Aunt, are my shoes very valuable?" Her aunt smiled and said, "They are very neat shoes, but why do you ask if they are valuable?" "O, I thought if they would bring a great deal of money, you could sell them, aunt, and I could buy some Bibles for those who have none."

This dear child walked with God two years longer, and then "she was not, for God took her." *Gen.* v. 24. Had she lived, what an earnest Bible distributor she would have been; but God called her to do his work in heaven; for we read that there "his servants shall serve him." *Rev.* xxii, 3.

“ Who would not wish to die like those
 Whom God’s own Spirit deigns to bless ?
 To sink into that soft repose,
 Then wake to perfect happiness.”

EXERCISE.

Teacher. How shall we know that we love God ?

Children. By keeping his commandments.

T. Where are these contained ?

C. In the Bible.

T. Can a disobedient child be a Christian ?

C. No ; for God says, Children, obey your parents, *Eph.* vi, i.

T. Can a lazy child be a pious child ?

C. No. God commands us not to be slothful in business. *Rom.* xii, 11.

T. Are quarrelsome children Christians ?

C. We are told to be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love. *Rom.* xii, 10.

T. Can a child who does not speak the truth be a Christian ?

C. No ; for God desires truth in the inward parts, and tells us to put away lying. *Psa.* li, 6 ; *Eph.* iv, 25.

T. What horrible judgment will liars have hereafter ?

C. All liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone. *Rev.* xxi, 8.

T. Will a good child forgive those who have injured him ?

C. Yes, he will overcome evil with good. *Rom. xii, 21.*

T. Will a pious child be proud ?

C. No ; for the Lord hates a proud look. He resists, or punishes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. *James iv, 6.*

T. May you all, my dear children, love God as little Lina did, and try to show that you do so by keeping his commandments. It was by reading the Bible that she learned how to please God, and he answered her prayers, and gave her strength to do right. Lina is in heaven doing God's will, and you may do it here. You have every opportunity to learn what his will is, and every encouragement to do it. Do not delay. Come to him now. Ask him to bless you, and he will do so. I have known little children who thought they were very good, who yet were not respectful to their parents and teachers, and who trifled on the Sabbath day, and were not very particular about speaking the truth. Such children are not of God. But they can repent, and ask God to forgive them and make them holy. If they are made

so, they will be useful in the world, and that will fill their hearts with peace and joy ; for God greatly blesses those who do his will. Jesus will accept their little services, for

“Did not he love of heaven to talk
With children in his sight ;
To meet them in his daily walk,
And to his arms invite ?”

LESSON XX.

THE GOLDEN CITY.

“That heavenly music ! what is it I hear !
The notes of the harpers ring sweet on the air ;
And see, soft unfolding those portals of gold,
The King, all array’d in his beauty, behold !”

EXERCISE.

Teacher. Jerusalem ! my happy home !

Name ever dear to me !

When shall my labors have an end,

In joy and peace in thee ?

Children. Oh ! when, thou city of our God,

Shall we thy courts ascend,

Where congregations ne’er break up,

And Sabbaths never end ?

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Teacher. There happier bowers than Eden's bloom,
Nor sin nor sorrow know :
Bless'd seats ! through rude and stormy
scenes

I onward press to you.

Children. Why should we shrink at pain and woe,
Or feel at death dismay ?
We've Canaan's goodly land in view,
And realms of endless day.

Teacher. Apostles, prophets, martyrs, there
Around my Saviour stand ;
And soon my friends in Christ below
Will join the glorious band.

Children. Jerusalem ! our happy home !
Our souls still pant for thee ;
Then shall our labors have an end,
When we thy joys shall see.

EXERCISE ON THE FOREGOING HYMN.

Teacher. And I, John, saw the holy
city, new Jerusalem, coming down from
God out of heaven, prepared as a bride
adorned for her husband. *Rev. xxi, 2.*

Children. And the city hath no need of the sun,
neither of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God
did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.
Rev. xxi, 23.

T. My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth
for the courts of the Lord : my heart and

my flesh crieth out for the living God.
Psa. lxxxiv, 2.

C. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. *Isaiah* xliii, 2.

T. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. *Psa.* xxiii, 4

C. Ye are come unto Mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels. *Heb.* xii, 22.

T. To the general assembly and Church of the first-born which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.
Verse 23.

C. I beheld, and lo! a great multitude which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands. *Rev.* vii, 9.

T. These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Verse 14.

C. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more, neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. *Verse 16.*

T. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? *Psa. xlii, 2.*

These texts, dear children, will explain the sweet hymn which we have sung. They speak of the golden city which the Christian often thinks of, where the "saints of all ages" are so happy. May we all be blessed dwellers in that glorious city, when we are called away from earth, and there unite with the saints and angels in the praises of our Redeemer.

"Thy gardens and thy goodly walks

Continually are green,

Where grow such sweet and pleasant flowers

As nowhere else are seen."

LESSON XXI.

THE BEAUTIFUL POOL.

“Come to the waters, come.”

EXERCISE.

*Sing the 76th Hymn, on the 360th page of the Sunday-School Harmonist.**

“O, don’t stay away on this beautiful day ;
Come, children, come all, to our own Sabbath school.”

Teacher. Can you tell me of a remarkable pool in Jerusalem ?

Children. The pool of Bethesda.

T. Where is this spoken of ?

C. In the fifth chapter of the Gospel according to St. John.

T. What did this pool do for sick, and blind, and lame people ?

C. It cured them of whatsoever disease they had.

T. How did the sick, and blind, and lame get into the pool ?

C. They stepped in, or were helped in, after an angel had troubled the water.

T. What did this pool represent ?

C. The fountain which washes away our sins.

* Published at the Book Rooms, 200 Mulberry-street.

T. What is the fountain which washes away our sins?

C. The blood of Christ.

T. Can you repeat a verse about this fountain to me?

C. "There is a fountain fill'd with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins ;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains."

T. Could diseased people get into the pool and be made well without assistance?

C. No ; an angel came down from heaven to make the pool ready for them. He troubled the water.

T. So one descended from heaven for our help. Who was it?

C. The Lord Jesus Christ, who died that we might live.

T. Do you not think that those people who lay at the pool, would have been very foolish not to have stepped into it?

C. Yes.

T. Do not you do so. Go to Jesus. Ask him to wash you from your sins, and make you pure and clean. Beg him to make you his own loving and obedient children, and give you

"A heart in every thought renewed,
And full of love divine."

LESSON XXII.

THE FOOLISH CHILD AND THE WISE ONE.

“Let me, my Saviour, learn of thee,
And paths of sin and folly flee.”

EXERCISE.

Sing the 27th Hymn, on the 316th page of the Sunday-School Harmonist.

“The child who dares to risk his soul,
A foolish child is he.”

Teacher. Who is a foolish child?

Children. The child who dares to risk his soul.

T. How does a child risk his soul?

C. By doing wicked things.

T. Which is the day of grace?

C. This day and every day of our present life.

T. What are our days given us for?

C. To fit our souls for heaven.

T. What kind of a child is he who breaks the Sabbath day?

C. A sinful child is he.

T. What does the hymn say of the child who swears?

C. “The child who utters oaths profane,
A sinful child is he.”

T. What will become of him?

C. “Down to the gates of endless woe
The wretched swearer soon will go.”

T. What is said of the child who loves the way of truth ?

C. A happy child is he.

T. Yes, a child who loves the way of truth, and keeps holy the Sabbath day, and tries to fit his soul for heaven, is a happy child. The wicked are not happy even in this world. And O, how wretched they will be in the world to come ! There they will be separated from God and from all bright and joyful things, and shut up in endless woe. Perhaps some of these little boys think now that they have sworn sometimes, and that sometimes they have said what is not true. Perhaps they are sorry that they have been wicked. They must go to Jesus. They cannot walk to him, and touch the hem of his garment as the people did when he was upon earth, but they can go to him in prayer. They can say, "God be merciful to me a sinner," and Jesus will hear and forgive them.

"Name thou His name who is the truth,
And he will hear thy call."

THE END.

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